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1986/10/16

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Department of State

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM
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EAP/JPLAISTED
EB/EWT: RPRICE (SUBS)

PM/STA: AONATE (INFO)

O 161827Z OCT 86
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 325003

STADIS//
FROM EAP/C

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ETTC, CH
SUBJECT: COCOM MEETING ON MUNITIONS LIST CONTROLS FOR
CHINA

REF: BEIJING 26284

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. EMBASSY WAS NOT GIVEN MORE DETAIL ON COCOM INTERNATIONAL MUNITIONS LIST (IML) MEETING ON CHINA FOR SEVERAL REASONS. ALTHOUGH THE MEETING HAS BEEN ON THE COCOM CALENDAR FOR MONTHS, USG POSITION WAS NOT FINALIZED UNTIL 10/9. INSTRUCTIONS TO U.S. DELEGATION TO THE MEETING WERE TRANSMITTED 10/10. BEIJING WAS NOT AN ADDRESSEE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE REPEATED THE INSTRUCTIONS TO YOU SEPTEL, FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

3. IN ADDITION, SUBSTANCE OF USG POLICY, AS EXPRESSED IN EAP/C STATUS REPORT, HAS NOT CHANGED FOR OVER A YEAR. RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN HIGHLY TECHNICAL AND SUCH ISSUES, DUAL-USE AND MUNITIONS, ARE HANDLED IN WASHINGTON WITH LITTLE REFERENCE TO POST. WHERE SIGNIFICANT

QUESTIONS OF GENERAL POLICY ARE AT ISSUE, WE WILL OF COURSE REQUEST EMBASSY INPUT AS APPROPRIATE.

4. FINALLY, WE NOTE WITH CONCERN INDICATION IN REFTEL THAT EMBASSY WOULD CONSIDER DISCUSSION OF COCOM MEETINGS WITH THE PRESS. EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ALL REPEAT ALL COCOM MEETINGS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. NO MENTION SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PRESS (OR THE CHINESE) OF THE SCHEDULING OR SUBSTANCE OF SUCH MEETINGS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THE CASE OF THE IML. IT IS NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO RAISE CHINESE EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT MIGHT COME OUT OF THESE MEETINGS. IN ADDITION, PRESS REPORTS MIGHT RAISE CONCERNS IN CONGRESS OVER WHAT MIGHT BE PERCEIVED AS AN UNJUSTIFIED AND OVERZEALOUS LIBERALIZATION OF MUNITIONS ITEMS FOR THE PRC.

ARMACOST

Date: 6/26/92

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